

**COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA ITEM TRANSMITTAL**

(1) DEPARTMENT Administrative Office	(2) MEETING DATE 6/7/2016	(3) CONTACT/PHONE Geoff O'Quest 781-5011	
(4) SUBJECT Request to approve a 2016 renewal contract with Topaz Solar Farms in the amount of \$456,417, under which County Fire would continue to provide 24/7 fire protection and emergency medical services to California Valley through December 31, 2016. District 5.			
(5) RECOMMENDED ACTION It is recommended your Board approve and direct the Chairperson to sign the agreement with Topaz Solar Farm in the amount of \$456,417, under which County Fire would continue to provide 24/7 fire and medical services to California Valley through December 31, 2016.			
(6) FUNDING SOURCE(S) Topaz Solar Farm	(7) CURRENT YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT \$232,487	(8) ANNUAL FINANCIAL IMPACT \$223,930	(9) BUDGETED? Yes
(10) AGENDA PLACEMENT { X } Consent    { } Presentation                      { } Hearing (Time Est. ____ )    { } Board Business (Time Est. ____)			
(11) EXECUTED DOCUMENTS { } Resolutions    { X } Contracts    { } Ordinances    { } N/A			
(12) OUTLINE AGREEMENT REQUISITION NUMBER (OAR) N/A		(13) BUDGET ADJUSTMENT REQUIRED? BAR ID Number: N/A { } 4/5 Vote Required                      { } N/A	
(14) LOCATION MAP N/A	(15) BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT? No	(16) AGENDA ITEM HISTORY { } N/A    Date: <u>June 19, 2012; December 3, 2014;</u> <u>May 19, 2015</u>	
(17) ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE REVIEW This item was prepared by the County Administrative Office			
(18) SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S) District 5			

# County of San Luis Obispo



TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Administrative Office / Geoff O'Quest  
781-5011

DATE: 6/7/2016

SUBJECT: Request to approve a 2016 renewal contract with Topaz Solar Farms in the amount of \$456,417, under which County Fire would continue to provide 24/7 fire protection and emergency medical services to California Valley through December 31, 2016. District 5.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended your Board approve and direct the Chairperson to sign the agreement with Topaz Solar Farm in the amount of \$456,417, under which County Fire would continue to provide 24/7 fire protection and emergency medical services to California Valley through December 31, 2016.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Summary**

In 2012, the County entered into an agreement with the firm building the Topaz Solar Farm to provide full-time, 24 hour a day, 7 day a week, 365 days a year (24/7) fire protection and emergency medical services to the builder and the residents of California Valley during construction of the Topaz Solar Farm project. Prior to this agreement, the County funded services for only three days a week. When construction was completed at the end of 2014, Topaz Solar Farms entered into an agreement to ensure full-time services continued through 2015. The proposed agreement will continue the provision of services through calendar year 2016. The County and Topaz Solar are in on-going discussions to continue services in 2017 and future years.

### **Background**

Topaz Solar Farm is the owner and operator of Topaz Solar Farm, the 550 megawatt solar farm project near California Valley. First Solar was the primary construction contractor on the project. First Solar's corporate policy required that Advanced Life Support (ALS) level emergency medical services with a response time of 15 minutes or less be available to its workers during construction.

On June 19, 2012, the County of San Luis Obispo entered into a contract with First Solar to provide these services. Prior to construction, County Fire provided emergency medical services at the Basic Life Support (BLS) level in California Valley (Station 42), which was provided by County Fire Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs). ALS level services can only be provided by more highly trained Paramedics and are regulated by the County Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA), which oversees the ALS system countywide.

The County Fire Department and First Solar negotiated an agreement under which the County would provide ALS level service to the entire California Valley area during the three year time period in which construction was to take place. The contract with First Solar was scheduled to run through June 30, 2015, but construction of the solar farm was completed earlier and First Solar ended its County contract for ALS as of January 1, 2015.

Topaz Solar Farm, the owner of the newly constructed solar farm, entered into a contract with the County to continue fire

protection and emergency medical services, approved by your Board on December 3, 2014, for the remainder of the First Solar contract period, January 1, 2015 through June 30, 2015. Following that period, Topaz Solar Farm requested that the contract be extended through December 31, 2015 and a contract amendment continuing services for this period was approved by your Board on May 19, 2015.

In the fall of 2015, Topaz Solar Farm subsequently requested an extension through at least December 2016, and entered into discussions with the Administrative Office to explore establishing an agreement lasting multiple years. Those discussions continued into 2016 without agreement on terms. Discussions are continuing with a high likelihood that an agreement will be reached for a continuation beyond the end of 2016. In the meantime, Topaz Solar Farm and the County have agreed to memorialize the terms for the current calendar year--January through December 2016--in a new contract.

The terms of the proposed contract with Topaz Solar Farm are unchanged from the original contract. The term is extended through December 31, 2016. The level of emergency medical services provided by the County will continue at the Basic Life Savings (EMT) level and will be provided 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The emergency medical services funded by Topaz Solar Farm will continue to be available to all residents served by County Fire Station 42 in California Valley. Services will be accessed through the 911 telephone system, and Topaz Solar Farm will receive no priority or exclusive right to service above that provided to any other resident in California Valley.

#### **OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT/IMPACT**

County Counsel has approved the amended contract as to form and legal effect.

#### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Topaz Solar Farm will pay \$456,417 for the period January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2015. In January 2016, Topaz Solar Farm was invoiced and paid roughly half this amount, totaling \$232,487, for the period of January 1 through June 30, 2016. Following approval of the proposed agreement Topaz will be invoiced and will pay the remaining \$223,930.

Prior to entering into the original contract with First Solar in June of 2012, the County funded fire protection and emergency medical services for three days each week at Station 42, at a current fiscal year cost of approximately \$400,000. The \$456,417 provided by Topaz Solar Farm will fund approximately two-thirds of the additional cost to operate the station 7 days a week for all 12 months of calendar year 2016. The remaining third of the cost is funded from the County General Fund, as approved in County Fire's FY 2015-16 adopted budget.

#### **RESULTS**

The proposed contract with Topaz Solar Farm will continue full-time, 24/7 fire protection and emergency medical services in the California Valley area through December 2016. This level of service will be available to all residents of California Valley. Board approval of this agreement will contribute to the County's Vision of a Healthy, Safe and Well-Governed Community.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Topaz Solar Farm Fire Protection and Emergency Medical Services 2016 Agreement